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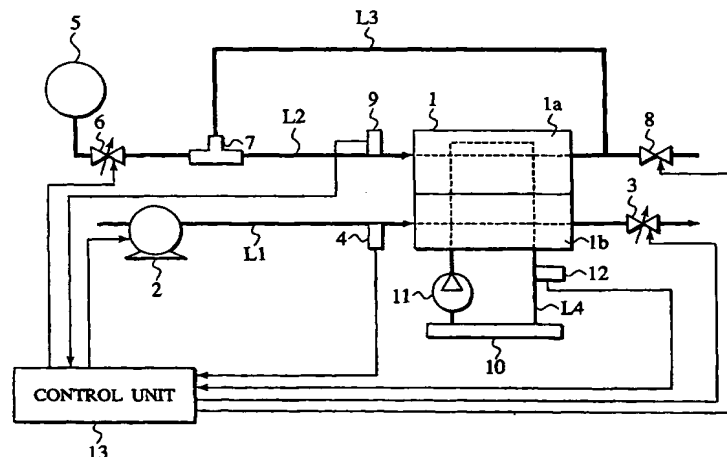
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(54) Title: **FUEL CELL SYSTEM AND CONTROL METHOD THEREOF**



(57) Abstract: A control unit calculates an integration value resulting from integration of the amount of an impurity other than a fuel gas at a hydrogen electrode, which varies in accordance with a gas pressure at the hydrogen electrode and the temperature of a fuel cell stack, when a hydrogen purge valve is set in a closed state and controls the hydrogen purge valve in an open state when the integration value becomes equal to or greater than a threshold value. The control unit calculates an integration value resulting from integration of a discharge gas flow rate from the hydrogen purge valve, which varies in accordance with the gas pressure at the hydrogen electrode and the temperature of the fuel gas, when the hydrogen purge valve is set in the open state and controls the hydrogen purge valve in the closed state when the integration value becomes equal to or greater than a threshold value. This makes it possible to eliminate impurities culminated in a fuel gas system, to ensure stable power generation over a wide range of operational load, and to minimize the amount of fuel discharge, thereby improving the efficiency of fuel usage.

WO 2004/075328 A3